



March 2012

Book Jacket Blurb to John R. Vile's Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: Practical Virtue in Action (Lanham, MD, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2012)

Contact  
Author

Start Your Own  
SelectedWorks

Notify Me  
of New Work

AMERICAN HISTORY \* LAW

"The framing of our Constitution is a story that every American ought to know by heart and John R. Vile's *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution* tells that wonderful story very well. His emphasis on the 'practical virtue' of the framers is a welcome one at a time in our own political history when principle is regarded as the antithesis of compromise."

—BRANNON P. DENNING, Cumberland School of Law, Samford University

"What the United States Constitution means is a matter of legal and increasingly contentious political dispute. Often invoked in these debates are what the framers of the document intended. *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: Practical Virtue in Action* offers an excellent summary of the context for the drafting of the Constitution as well as critical examination of the drafting of the document at the Philadelphia Convention. Written by one of the leading contemporary constitutional scholars, John R. Vile demonstrates how the framers combined scholarship and experience to produce America's Constitution. For students, faculty, and others who want to grasp what the Constitution meant to the framers, this book is an excellent first stop and essential read."

—DAVID SCHULTZ, editor, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, Hamline University

"Sober, measured, scholarly, carefully chosen language—these are the hallmarks of Professor Vile's publications on the framing of the United States Constitution. Vile's newest contribution, *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution*, draws on the primary documents from this period, but the author is equally at home with the wisdom of academia (political science, history, and law) and with judicial decisions expounding on the Constitution. This book is a good fit for any library reference collection and for any student starting a module or course of study in American civilization or government. Highly recommended."

—SETH BARRETT TILLMAN, Lecturer of Law, National University of Ireland Maynooth

"*The Writing and Ratification of the United States Constitution* by John R. Vile is a wise and practical book of scholarship. A pleasure to read, the book provides a concise compendium of the issues and the personalities of those at the center of the central enterprise of the American experiment in self-government. Vile offers an understated but eloquent vindication of the pragmatism the founders brought to their work and challenges our current generation of leaders to find such common ground once more."

—KENNETH L. PENEGAR, author of *The Political Trial of Benjamin Franklin*

**JOHN R. VILE** is professor of political science and dean of the University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro.

VILE

The  
WRITING  
and  
RATIFICATION  
of the  
U.S. CONSTITUTION

PRACTICAL VIRTUE IN ACTION



The WRITING and RATIFICATION  
of the U.S. CONSTITUTION

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD PUBLISHERS, INC.  
A wholly owned subsidiary of  
The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.  
800-462-6420 • www.rowman.com

ISBN 978-1-4422-1768-3



9 781442 217683

9 0000

COVER DESIGN BY DEVIN WATSON

ROWMAN &  
LITTLEFIELD

JOHN R. VILE